

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PSD: SA CARNEIRO BACK IN THE SADDLE

REF: (A) LISBON 3591, (B) LISBON 2611

SUMMARY: FRANCISCO SA CARNEIRO WILL RETURN AS PSD PRESIDENT DURING THE PARTY'S NATIONAL CONGRESS JULY 1-2 IN LISBON IN CONTROL OF THE PARTY'S MAJOR POLICY ORGANS. THE SOUSA FRANCO-LED MODERATES PLAN TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS IN THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, THE PARTY'S YOUTH WING, AND LABOR. THE UPCOMING CONGRESS WILL BE BILLED AS A SYMBOL OF A REUNIFIED PSD IN OPPOSITION TO THE PS/CDS GOVERNMENT BUT THE SEEDS OF A FUTURE PARTY SPLIT OR AT LEAST SIGNIFICANT DEFECTIONS BY SOUSA FRANCO MODERATES HAVE BEEN SOWN. END SUMMARY.

1. SA CARNEIRO BACK IN CONTROL: ON THE BASIS OF CONVERSATIONS WITH A BROAD RANGE OF PSD MEMBERS AND DEPUTIES, IT IS CLEAR THAT FRANCISCO SA CARNEIRO WILL BE ELECTED PARTY PRESIDENT AT THE JULY 1-2 PSD NATIONAL CONGRESS IN LISBON. THE WEEKEND CONGRESS WILL AT LEAST TEMPORARILY END MORE THAN THREE MONTHS OF DIVISIVE INTERNAL PARTY DEBATE WHICH ERUPTED WITH THE RESIGNATION
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OF THE SOUSA FRANCO-LED NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMISSION IN EARLY APRIL. PARTY MODERATES WILL SUFFER A MAJOR SETBACK IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BLOCK PSD OPPOSITION POLICY CONTROL BY SA CARNEIRO LOYALISTS, BUT IN THE SHORT-TERM WILL PROBABLY REMAIN IN THE PARTY. IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, THE MODERATE WING WILL CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS IN THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, THE PARTY'S YOUTH WING, AND LABOR. THE NATIONAL

CONGRESS IS EXPECTED TO:

- APPROVE A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE PSD LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE BY BREAKING THE PARTY PRESIDENCY OUT OF THE NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMISSION. SA CARNEIRO WILL BE ELECTED PSD PRESIDENT AND INTERIM DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND SA CARNEIRO LOYALIST MENERES PIMENTEL IS TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF A NEW 12-MEMBER NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMISSION INCLUDING MOURA GUEDES, ANGELO CORREIA, AND HELENA ROSETA. LONG TIME SA CARNEIRO STALWART AMANDIO DE AZEVEDO WILL PROBABLY BE ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL;
- ELECT A NEW NATIONAL COUNCIL AND OTHER PARTY LEADERSHIP ORGANS;
- ENDORSE THE CREATION OF A 5-6 MEMBER PERMANENT COMMITTEE TO THE NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMISSION TO RUN THE PARTY ON A DAILY BASIS; AND
- ENDORSE THE TOUGHER OPPOSITION LINE URGED BY SA CARNEIRO SINCE HIS RESIGNATION LAST NOVEMBER.

2. SHORT-TERM MODERATE STRATEGY FAILS: PRIOR TO THE WEEK OF JUNE 19, THE UPCOMING CONGRESS SHOWED ALL THE SYMPTOMS OF BECOMING A SERIOUSLY DIVISIVE FREE-FOR-ALL. HOWEVER, AT A SERIES OF MEETINGS HELD THAT WEEK BETWEEN SOUSA FRANCO MODERATES AND SA CARNEIRO LOYALISTS--THE FIRST ORGANIZED MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS IN ALMOST SIX WEEKS--MODERATES REALIZED THAT WHILE THEY COULD MAINTAIN SOME STRENGTH IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, THEY COULD NOT BLOCK SA CARNEIRO'S RETURN.

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THEY COULD HAVE RUN THE PARTY WITHOUT HIM BUT NOT AGAINST HIM. THEY HAVE CONSEQUENTLY DECIDED TO RETRENCH AND APPLY THEIR SHORT-TERM STRATEGY--HOPING THAT MENERES PIMENTEL AND OTHER UNCONDITIONAL SA CARNEIRO SUPPORTERS DEMONSTRATE THEIR INCOMPETENCE (REF A)--TO THE LONG HAUL. FORMER POLITICAL COMMISSION MEMBERS HAVE NOT SUBMITTED THEIR OWN LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE NEW COMMISSION LEAVING THE SA CARNEIRO CANDIDATES UNOPPOSED.

3. IMMEDIATE EFFECTS: WITH THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN RECESS, THE BROADER REPERCUSSIONS OF SA CARNEIRO'S ANTICIPATED RETURN JULY 1-2 WILL PROBABLY NOT BE FELT UNTIL THE ASSEMBLY RECONVENES IN OCTOBER. MEANWHILE, FORMER NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMISSION PRESIDENT SOUSA FRANCO MAY RETURN TO TEACHING FOR THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS OR OTHERWISE TEMPORARILY RETIRE FROM ACTIVE PARTY AFFAIRS WHILE MAINTAINING HIS SEAT IN THE ASSEMBLY. FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL SERVULO CORREIA MAY BE ASKED TO SERVE ON THE NEW PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMISSION BUT MANY MODERATES DOUBT THAT HE OR OTHER SOUSA FRANCO BACKERS WILL AGREE TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE NEW SA CARNEIRO-INSPIRED LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE. SOME MAY BE ASKED TO WORK ON THE PARTY'S AS YET UNFORMED COMMITTEE TO STUDY

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS SCHEDULED FOR 1980-81. RUI MACHETE WILL PROBABLY STAY ON AS DIRECTOR OF THE PARTY'S OLIVEIRA MARTINS LABOR INSTITUTE. A NEW PARLIAMENTARY GROUP LEADERSHIP WILL NOT BE CHOSEN UNTIL THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECONVENES IN OCTOBER.

4. COMMENT: SA CARNEIRO'S OPPOSITION STRATEGY WILL BE PURSUED FAITHFULLY BY THE NEW LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE. WITH THE ANTICIPATED SEPARATION OF PARTY PRESIDENT AND NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMISSION ROLES, HE WILL HAVE THE LUXURY OF REMOVING HIMSELF FROM DAY-TO-DAY PARTY ACTIVITIES AND PLAYING A NATIONAL OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP ROLE. THE SOUSA FRANCO MODERATES HAVE, HOWEVER, LEFT THEIR MARK IN THREE MONTHS OF PARTY LEADERSHIP. THE UPCOMING CONGRESS WILL BE BILLED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS A SIGN OF A REUNIFIED PSD BUT DIVISIONS AMONG PSD ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES MAY NOW RUN DEEPER THAN EVER AND THE SEEDS OF AN EVENTUAL SPLIT OR AT LEAST SIGNIFICANT DEFECTIONS HAVE TAKEN ROOT.
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